

MAPLE GROVE TRANSIT COMMISSION
City of Maple Grove
Meeting of April 3, 2012

MINUTES

Members Present: Rose Peterson, Terry Coss, Jodi Carman Kortsha, Jaime Renner, and Teri Anderson.

Members Absent: Michelle Driessen.

Also Present: Mike Opatz – City of Maple Grove, Bill Patten-Midwest Paratransit, Colleen Swann-Metro Transit, and Doyne Parsons-Metro Transit.

Call to Order

Transit Commission Chair Rose Peterson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Presentation of 2012 Transit Awards

The following Metro Transit drivers received a 2012 Maple Grove Transit “Distinguished Service Award”. Congratulations and many thanks to these drivers for the excellent service they provide.

- Brenda Lutzke
- Marvin Hill
- Milton Jones
- Bruce Ekdahl
- Ronald Jones
- Nora Kurkowski
- Wayne Dalida

Oath of Office

No Oath of Office was administered for Michelle Driessen as she resigned from the Transit Commission via e-mail on April 3, 2012.

Open Forum

No one from the public spoke during the open forum.

Approve Minutes

The Commission approved the meeting minutes January 31, 2012.

Discussion of Routes and Statistics

Opatz reviewed the monthly ridership summaries for January and February 2012 and the most recent daily ridership reports. The Commissioners gave updates regarding their commute and routes:

- Rose Peterson – No issues to report.
- Michelle Driessen – Absent/Resigned.
- Jodi Carman Kortsha – The 788 bus was late a couple of times and the Crosswinds lot is getting full.
- Terry Coss – No major issues to discuss, and the new start point on the 783 a.m. trips appears to attract riders.
- Teri Anderson – No major issues to report and all seems to be going well..
- Jaime Renner – All is going well on the 785 trips. Drivers have been calling out streets and wearing seat belts.

Route 789 Service Changes for September 2012

Opatz stated that the Route 789 pm trip # 2 at 5:45 p.m. only averaged 9 riders per day in February 2012 and historically has been an underperforming trip. As a result, the following changes are recommended effective September 4, 2012:

- Eliminate the trip starting at 5:45 p.m.
- Reinvest the savings into a new trip starting at 2:45 p.m.
- The 4:45 p.m. trip will now be labeled as trip #2.

Opatz stated that he has had numerous requests by students to have a midday return trip on the Route 789 and in the past have conducted a rider survey on this topic. The Commission approved the change, but stated that the riders should be notified this spring.

Phase 2 Parkway Station

Opatz said that the City of Maple Grove completed Phase I of the Parkway Transit Station in February 2011. The project was funded with a federal CMAQ grant, RTC bonds, and City transit funds. Parkway Station is served by the Maple Grove Transit Route 785, which presently has nine express trips to and from Minneapolis. Phase I included a 498-stall park-and-ride lot, dedicated bus way and indoor passenger station. In anticipation of future growth, Phase I also included the footings and foundation for a future one level parking structure.

In only one year of operation, the parking stalls are 67 percent occupied by commuters. As a result, the City of Maple Grove is seeking bond funds from the State of Minnesota to construct Phase 2. The total project cost is estimated at \$4,438,000. The City is seeking state bond funding equal to 80 percent of the total project cost or \$3,550,400. The City of Maple Grove will commit to contributing 20 percent of the total project cost as the local match totaling \$887,600. The local share will come from the Maple Grove Transit account.

The Parkway Station Phase II project includes the construction, predesign, design, administration, and materials testing to provide elevated parking stalls over the existing parking lot. As footings and foundations are in place from Phase I, the construction period will be shortened by approximately 20%. The Land Use/PUD approval by the Maple Grove City Council for Phase I also included Phase II, so no additional city land use approvals are required. As a result, the City could move forward within 90 days of receiving funding approval.

A resolution was adopted by the Maple Grove City Council supporting the request of state bond funds to construct Phase 2. It is unknown at this time if this project will be approved by the State Legislature and signed by the Governor. Opatz stated that he did testify at a House hearing on the bill and the project was well received, but at this time it did not make the list of projects being considered for state bond project. However, at the moment no transit project are included and they could be negotiated back in.

10 Millionth Ridership Mark

Opatz stated that it is projected that Maple Grove Transit will reach the 10 millionth ridership mark in May 2012 since beginning operations in June 1990. On June 7, 2005, Maple Grove Transit celebrated serving its five millionth rider and 15 years of providing bus service since the system started in June 1990. It only took seven years to provide the next 5 millions rides. The Commission directed Opatz to develop an event to celebrate this milestone.

Transit Commission Vacancies *(item added to the agenda)*

The Commissioners directed Opatz to solicit applicants for the following vacancies on the Transit Commission:

- 780 – Michelle Driessen resigned on 4/3/12.
- 782 - Pending resignation of Chair Rose Peterson.
- 789 - Newly created position.
- 781A - Ronda Zegar did not seek reappointment after the 12/31/11 term expired.
- Dial-A-Ride - Laura Ayala did not seek reappointment after the 12/31/11 term expired.

Adjourn / Next Meeting

- Next Scheduled Regular Meeting: May 29, 2012
- Being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.
- Minutes submitted by Mike Opatz, Transit Administrator.